



Ministry of Health and Social Services  
Republic of Namibia

| NAMIBIA COVID-19 SITUATION REPORT NO.36 |                     |                          |               |
|---|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| Outbreak Name                           | COVID-19            | Country affected         | Namibia       |
| Date & Time of report                   | 23 April 2020 19:00 | Investigation start date | 13 March 2020 |
| Prepared by                             | Surveillance Team   |                          |               |

Date of outbreak declaration in Namibia: 14 March 2020.

### 1. SITUATION UPDATE / HIGHLIGHTS

- No new confirmed case was reported in the last 18 days (5 – 23 April 2020).
- Cumulatively, 16 confirmed cases have been reported in the country, to date.
- To date, of the 16 confirmed cases, seven (7) have recovered and discharged.
- Supervised quarantine for all Namibians arriving from abroad for 14 days is ongoing.
- The lockdown has been extended until 4 May for entire country, as announced on 14 April 2020 by His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Namibia
  - All borders will remain closed except for essential/critical services and humanitarian support to the response.
  - All other prevention measures are applicable to the entire country

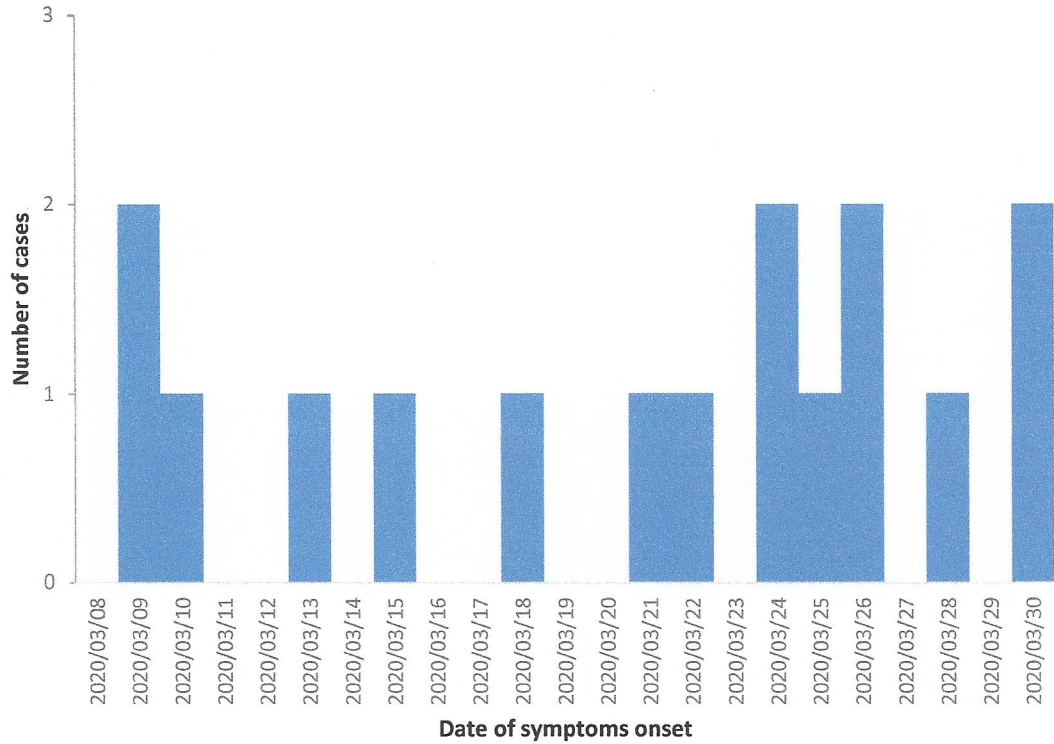
### 2. BACKGROUND

#### Description of the cases

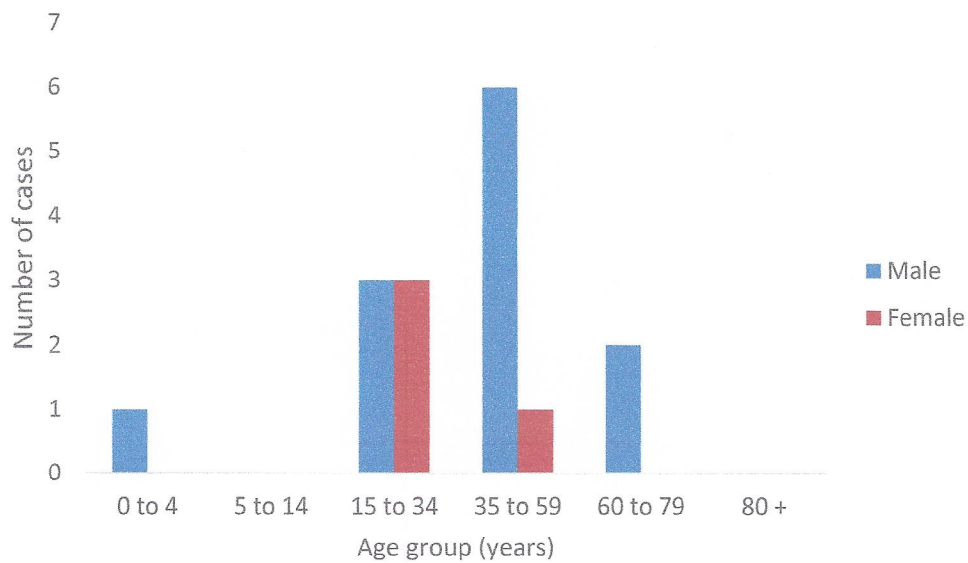
- **Index cases:** Two confirmed cases of COVID-19 were reported in Windhoek district on 13 March 2020. The married couple; a 35-year-old male and a 25-year-old female, arrived from Madrid, Spain on 11 March 2020.
- Total number of imported cases currently stands at 13 while 3 cases are local transmissions.
- There is no evidence of community transmission in the country at the moment.

Table 1: Confirmed cases by region as of 23 April 2020

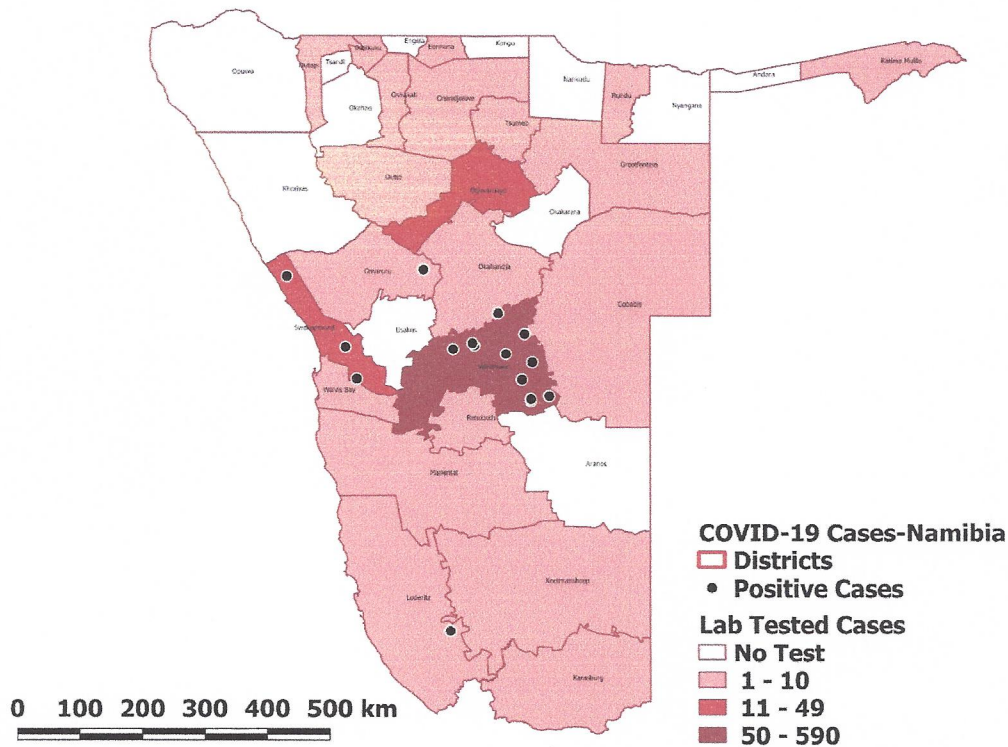
| Reporting region | Total Cases | New cases | Active cases | Recovered | Death    |
|------------------|-------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|----------|
| Khomas           | 11          | 0         | 5            | 6         | 0        |
| //Karas          | 1           | 0         | 1            | 0         | 0        |
| Erongo           | 4           | 0         | 3            | 1         | 0        |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>16</b>   | <b>0</b>  | <b>9</b>     | <b>7</b>  | <b>0</b> |



**Figure 1: Epi-curve for COVID-19 confirmed cases in Namibia as of 23 April 2020**



**Figure 2: Age and sex distribution for COVID-19 confirmed cases in Namibia as of 23 April 2020**



*Figure 3: Suspected and confirmed COVID-19 cases in Namibia per District, 23 April 2020*

### 3. PUBLIC HEALTH ACTION / RESPONSE INTERVENTIONS EPIDEMIOLOGY & SURVEILLANCE

- **Case definitions as of 20 March 2020:**

**Suspect case:**

A. A patient with acute respiratory illness (fever and at least one sign/symptom of respiratory disease, e.g., cough, shortness of breath), AND a history of travel to or residence in a location reporting community transmission of COVID-19 disease during the 14 days prior to symptom onset;

OR

B. A patient with any acute respiratory illness AND having been in contact with a confirmed or probable COVID-19 case in the last 14 days prior to symptom onset;

OR

C. A patient with severe acute respiratory illness (fever and at least one sign/symptom of respiratory disease, e.g., cough, shortness of breath; AND requiring hospitalization) AND in the absence of an alternative diagnosis that fully explains the clinical presentation.

**Probable case:** A suspect case for whom testing for COVID-19 is inconclusive. Inconclusive being the result of the test reported by the laboratory



**Confirmed case:** A person with laboratory confirmation of COVID-19 infection, irrespective of clinical signs and symptoms.

**Active surveillance working case definition as of 20 April 2020**

A patient diagnosed with Upper/Lower Respiratory Infection (Mild or Severe) presenting any of the following signs and symptoms: cough, sore throat, fever, chills, myalgia/body pains or shortness of breath in the past 7 days.

- **Surveillance activities**
  - Daily pillar and intra-pillar discussions are held to deliberate daily progress, gaps and way forward;
  - Call centre continue operations for 24 hours per day
  - Data entry is ongoing and real time data dashboard has been completed and ready to be launched soon.
  - Active case finding in all regions aimed at looking for possible community transmission is ongoing.
  - Contact tracing is ongoing (see table 2) and all contacts will be tested
  - People under mandatory quarantine are being monitored daily (see table 3) and will be tested on day 12 before release on day 15.

**Contact tracing Summary**

**Table 2: National contacts tracing summary for Covid-19 as of 23.04.2020**

| Variables   | Contact risk level |        |     |       |
|---|--------------------|--------|-----|-------|
|   | High               | Medium | Low | Total |
| Total Number of contacts listed (potential)                 | 68                 | 48     | 118 | 234   |
| Total Number of contacts identified                         | 68                 | 48     | 102 | 218   |
| Total Number of active contacts (being followed)            | 3                  | 1      | 2   | 6     |
| Number of contacts monitored/followed in the last 24hrs     | 3                  | 1      | 2   | 6     |
| Total number of Contacts completed 14-days follow up        | 62                 | 44     | 95  | 201   |
| Total Number of contacts that developed signs & symptoms    | 25                 | 7      | 7   | 39    |
| Total Number of contacts tested positive                    | 3                  | 1      | 0   | 4     |
| *Total Number of contacts tested without signs and symptoms | 18                 | 1      | 8   | 27    |
| © Total Number of contacts lost to follow up                | 0                  | 2      | 5   | 7     |
| Total number of Contacts never reached                      | 0                  | 0      | 16  | 16    |

\*Number of contacts without signs & symptoms tested. One tested positive.

© Seven contacts are lost to follow up, all are non-Namibians and have travelled back to their countries of origin.

**Table 3: Number of people in mandatory quarantine facilities as of 23.04.2020**

| Region       | Newly quarantined 24hrs | Cumulative number of people | Number of people discharged | Number of people in quarantine now |
|--------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Oshana       | 0                       | 2                           | 1                           | 1                                  |
| Ohangwena    | 1                       | 22                          | 6                           | 16                                 |
| Hardap       | 0                       | 40                          | 40                          | 0                                  |
| Otjozondjupa | 0                       | 100                         | 61                          | 39                                 |
| Khomas       | 3                       | 153                         | 130                         | 23                                 |
| Zambezi      | 5                       | 108                         | 80                          | 28                                 |
| //Karas      | 2                       | 93                          | 14                          | 79                                 |
| Erongo       | 0                       | 28                          | 0                           | 28                                 |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>11</b>               | <b>546</b>                  | <b>332</b>                  | <b>214</b>                         |

#### LABORATORY INVESTIGATIONS

- As of 23 April 2020, a total of 621 COVID-19 specimens were tested in the two laboratories (NIP and Path Care) as per table 4. below:

**Table 4: COVID-19 specimens recorded at NIP and Path care Laboratories as of 23.04.2020**

| As of 23/04/2020                            | Laboratory |            |              | Total      |
|---|------------|------------|--------------|------------|
|   | NIP        | Path care  | South Africa |            |
| Total sample received by the Laboratory     | 539        | 204        | -            | 743        |
| <b>Total sample tested</b>                  | <b>424</b> | <b>197</b> | -            | <b>621</b> |
| Total results received                      | 424        | 197        | -            | 621        |
| Total sample re-tested                      | 71         | 1          | -            | 72         |
| Total results positive                      | 9          | 6          | *1           | 16         |
| Total results negative                      | 415        | 191        | -            | 606        |
| Total sample discarded                      | 41         | 2          | -            | 43         |
| Total results pending                       | 3          | 4          | -            | 7          |
| Total results inconclusive/indeterminate    | 0          | 0          | -            | 0          |
| @Total new suspected cases in last 24 hours | 18         | 11         | -            | 29         |

\*1 Patient specimen collected and tested in South Africa, he travelled back before results came out

@ Total new suspected cases laboratory results received within 24 hours

#### COORDINATION AND LEADERSHIP:

- Daily feedback meetings between pillar leads, coordination team and Incident manager ongoing, to share daily accomplishments and to address key challenges
- Efforts to increase isolation and quarantine facilities are ongoing.
- Finalizing needs assessment and integrated capacity training plans for the responders at National and regional levels.
- Integrated training on covid-19 concept note being revised to ensure the number of participants and logistics arrangements are in alignment with the lock-down directives and covid-19 social distancing.

- Plans are underway to complete the Organogram, SOPs, TORs, Contingency Response Plan and sentinel surveillance protocol in order to submit them for clearance to senior management.

## **CASE MANAGEMENT**

- Out of the 16 cumulative confirmed cases, 7 recovered, and have been discharged, after testing negative for COVID-19 at 48 hours interval.
- The other 9 confirmed cases are in stable condition and all are asymptomatic.
- Conversion of casualty department at Windhoek Central Hospital (WCH) into a highly infectious referral ICU is nearing completion.
- A 12-bed Isolation Unit has been constructed at WCH, awaiting installation of oxygen equipment
- Rhino Garments' building renovation to be repurposed as an isolation facility.
  - The memorandum of understanding between MoHSS and private hospitals are being prepared on the renovation and operation of the facility.
- Katutura State Hospital (KSH) TB ward being re-purposed into a COVID-19 ward.
- Four Private hospitals in Windhoek (Mediclinic, Lady Pohamba, Rhino Park, and Roman Catholic private hospital) have been designated as the private hospitals for the response of COVID-19 with a combined total of 8 ICU beds and 32 beds for moderate to severe cases.
  - COVID-19 patients with health insurance cover are eligible to access care in any of the 4 designated facilities
- Training of health care workers (from wards and from private facilities) on case management and IPC is conducted daily at WCH, KSH, and Robert Mugabe Clinic.
- Forty (40) medical graduates were trained on IPC, surveillance and specimen collection.
  - They will be deployed on 24 April 2020 to Case Management and Surveillance teams.
  - Fifteen (15) of the medical graduates are still in the regions and need to be trained.
- Health Facility readiness visit to the regions being planned.
- Bi-weekly ZOOM training sessions for Health Care Workers is ongoing.

## **INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL (IPC)**

- Conducted a training on overview of COVID-19 and IPC among 29 Nursing volunteers from 3 Universities (UNAM, IUM, and Welwitchia University)
- Finalised IPC materials as part integrated training package
- Reviewed and finalised the SOP for management of remains of people who dies from COVID-19



## **LOGISTICS:**

- Facilitation of the allocation of quarantine facilities in the country and transportation for discharged people from quarantine facilities is ongoing.
- Provision of commodities` specifications and verification for procurement is being done regularly
- A total of 94 appointments approved and emailed to regions & Hospitals, (44 HEW Omusati, 2 HEW Otjozondjupa, 7 Registered Nurses Hardap, 2 Social Workers, 6 Registered Nurses, 1 Pharmacist Assistant 1 Pharmacist, 2 Enrolled Nurses, 1 Environmental Health Practitioner, 2 Social Workers all for Zambezi , 1 Radiographer & 1 Medical Officer Onandjokwe, 26 student nurses Windhoek.
- Cumulative number of recruitments as of 21 April 2020 = 925

## **POINTS OF ENTRY:**

- Inspection was done at 2 big open markets of Windhoek to assess it for readiness to re-opening
- Continuing to work on the training content of the planned integrated training for COVID-19 response.
- Provisional tippy taps are being installed at all the roadblocks around Khomas.
- A concept note on establishing truck ports in major towns and along the borders have been finalized.

## **RISK COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:**

- The communication hub continues to give updates on COVID-19 and also clarify miscommunications on a daily basis this is done concurrently with the social media updates.
- The RCCE team worked with the City of Windhoek to develop messages for traders and customers at the open markets.
- The Media continue to communicate messages on COVID-19 and the extension of the lockdown.
- The RCCE continues to share messages on Covid-19 prevention measures

## **PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT SERVICES:**

- Health education, psychosocial support and post counselling services to people under quarantine, COVID-19 confirmed cases and their families are ongoing
- Regional social workers provide counselling to 70 persons in quarantine in 7 regions.
- A total of 463 persons in need of shelter housed at two sites.
- Daily orientation of regional social workers on their role in the COVID-19 response continues in order to guide them in activities to be conducted.
- A total of 461 persons in need of shelter housed at two sites

- Health education, psychosocial support services provided, as well as food and other material distributed at places where persons in need of shelter are placed is ongoing.
- MTC continue to provide lunch for the persons without shelter at the two sites in Windhoek
- Negotiations underway with a total of 160 persons in need of shelter who are refusing to still to be placed.
- Assessment of persons in need of shelter commenced on 16 April and will continue until 25 April 2020. A total of 161 needs assessment forms were completed by 22 April 2020.
- Two (2) telephonic and 22 face to face counselling sessions were conducted.
- Finalize need assessment of persons in need of shelter and compile report with recommendations for relevant authorities for planning and implementation.

#### 4. CHALLENGES

- Inadequate and at some places lack of isolation units at health facilities and at points of entry in the regions.
- The COVID-19 rapid response team inadequately staffed
- Unavailability of probes and primers for NIP laboratory to start testing for Seasonal Influenza (H1N1) from beginning May 2020.
- Inadequate swabs for Covid-19
- Regions need training addressing all pillars of the response team.

#### 5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- Establish fully equipped isolation units at health facilities and at points of entry in the regions.
- Fast track procurement process laboratory testing kits (probes and primers) for Seasonal Influenza (H1N1) testing in the two selected sentinel sites (Katutura Hospital and Robert Mugabe clinic). The sites can be extended later.
- Finalise integrated training capacity package (addressing all pillars) and conduct training in all the regions
- Conduct a need assessment to identify the readiness of all regions in terms of equipped isolation facilities, IPC, PPEs and adequate response task force.
- Finalize need assessment of persons in need of shelter and compile report with recommendations for relevant authorities for planning and implementation.

**Approved:**



Incident Manager

Date: 23.04.2020



Secretariat